



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony for Council Bill #12- 2010

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Raymond S. Wacks
Budget Administrator

Date: April 6, 2010

Council Bill #12– 2010 as proposed will amend Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for fiscal year 2010 to increase the bottom line of the General Fund of the Budget by \$2,000,000, and to add those expenses to the budget of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

This Bill is necessary because of the extraordinary cost of snow removal as result of the record breaking snows that occurred in Howard County during this fiscal year. The administration has already introduced Supplemental Budget Appropriation Ordinance No. 14 – 2010 to supplement the amount of snow removal costs budgeted in DPW from the Contingency Reserve of the General Fund of the County. That supplemental budget appropriation request, along with other supplemental budget appropriation requests submitted to the County Council, have completely depleted the Contingency Reserve.

In order to pay the costs for snow removal and to continue the normal operations of DPW through the remainder of this current fiscal year, the Budget Office and DPW have determined that an additional appropriation to DPW of \$2,000,000 is necessary to prevent a deficit in the department. If this proposed legislation is not approved, DPW would have to cease operations at some point during the last month of the fiscal year to avoid that deficit.

To provide the revenue to balance the increase in the bottom line of the expense budget, the Budget Office has identified an additional revenue source that was not anticipated at the time the FY 2010 Budget was adopted. Subsequent to the adoption of the FY 2010 Budget, the Howard Community College determined that it would sell the Belmont Conference Center rather than continue it as a facility of the College. As a result of that decision, the College has requested that Capital Project M-0537, Belmont Conference Center, be closed. When capital projects are closed any unspent revenue still remaining on a project is returned to General Fund of the County. This project has been closed and \$2,409,188, the remaining balance on this project, will be deposited to the FY 2010 General Fund. Any revenue in

excess of the amount necessary to balance the additional expense of snow removal will be used to offset the projected revenue deficit in the budget.

I will be at the County Council public hearing on this legislation to present this testimony and answer any questions that the Council may have.

cc: Jennifer Sager
Lynn Robeson
Jim Irvin